

Bethel Recycling Center is alive and well

by Dave Stovner

Hi, my name is David Stovner and I took over as the Solid Waste Coordinator for the City of Bethel in charge of the Bethel Recycling Center the first of August.

For the past three months most of my time has been spent cleaning up both the inside and outside in order to organize it so that I am able to do the actual recycling more efficiently. Recycling is a whole lot more than just being a collector of paper, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, copper, stainless steel, aluminum pieces, and batteries. Recycling is turning around and reusing these items or making them into something else that is usable.

However, to do that these recyclables have to be sent out of Bethel and we all know that this practice is expensive. In reality, it costs more to send these items out to Anchorage or Seattle than they are worth. For this reason, I would like to take this opportunity to personally and publicly thank Northland Services Inc. for the use of their containers and for backhauling them for us to Seattle and for their continued support of the Bethel Recycling Center. Without Northland Services the recycling center, which is a non-profit facility would never have been able to stay in existence. So a big thank you is in order and probably long overdue.

This year Alaska Logistics has come on board and will be doing the same thing Northland has been doing for years, that is, loaning us a few containers and backhauling them for us to Seattle. The City of Bethel thanks you and wants you to know we appreciate your offer to help us in our recycling efforts. I believe Northland is happy that you have done this as well

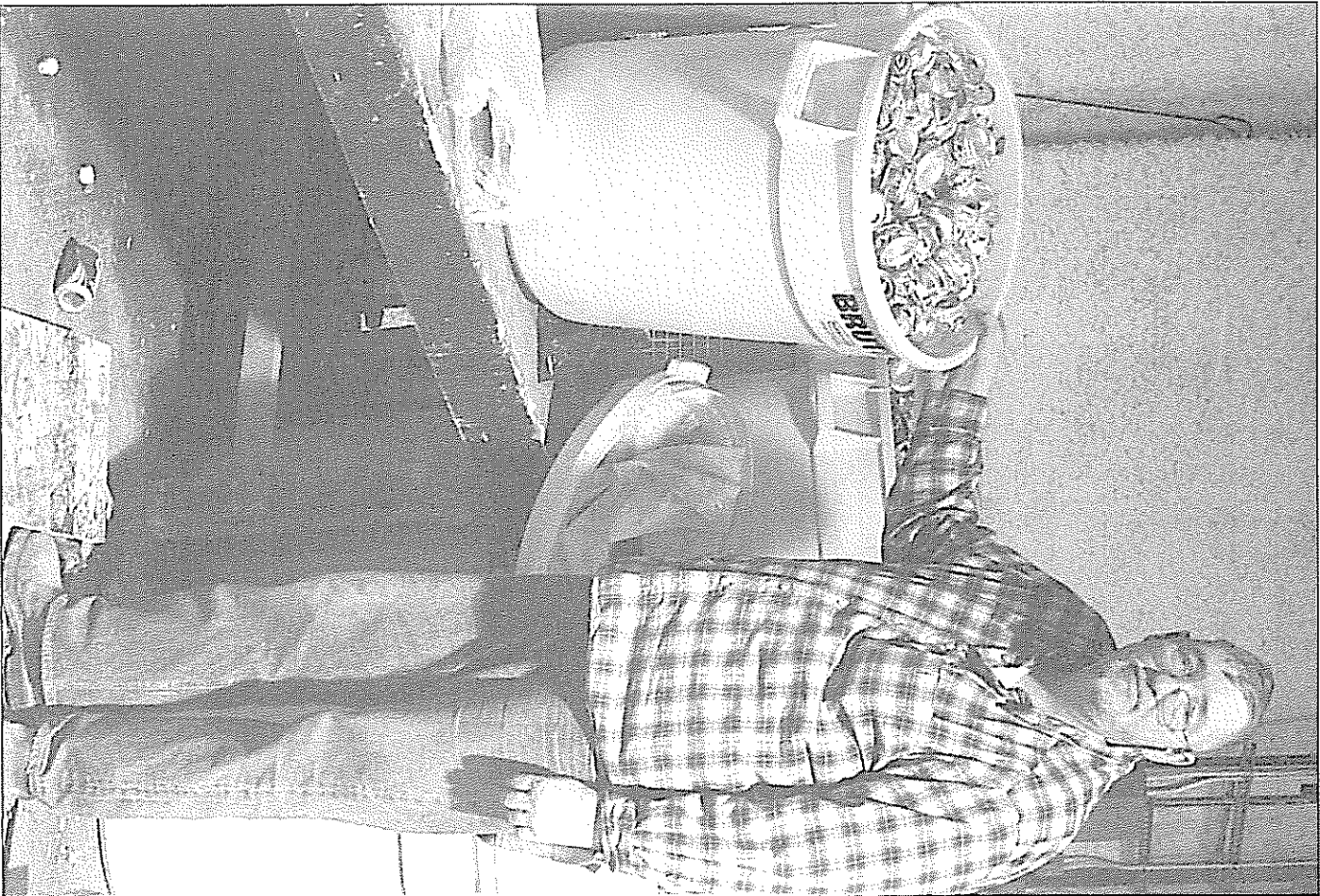
because it will take some of the burden off of them.

Many of the villages are able to take part in recycling and make a small profit by sending their aluminum cans to our recycling center. The Alaska Air Carriers Association and the Alaska Hovercraft have all agreed and have for many years been hauling aluminum cans and plastic bottles in from the villages as a service to them and to lend a helping hand in this whole idea of recycling. I thank you folks as well. The fact of the matter is that it takes everyone doing a small part to make recycling for the City of Bethel a reality.

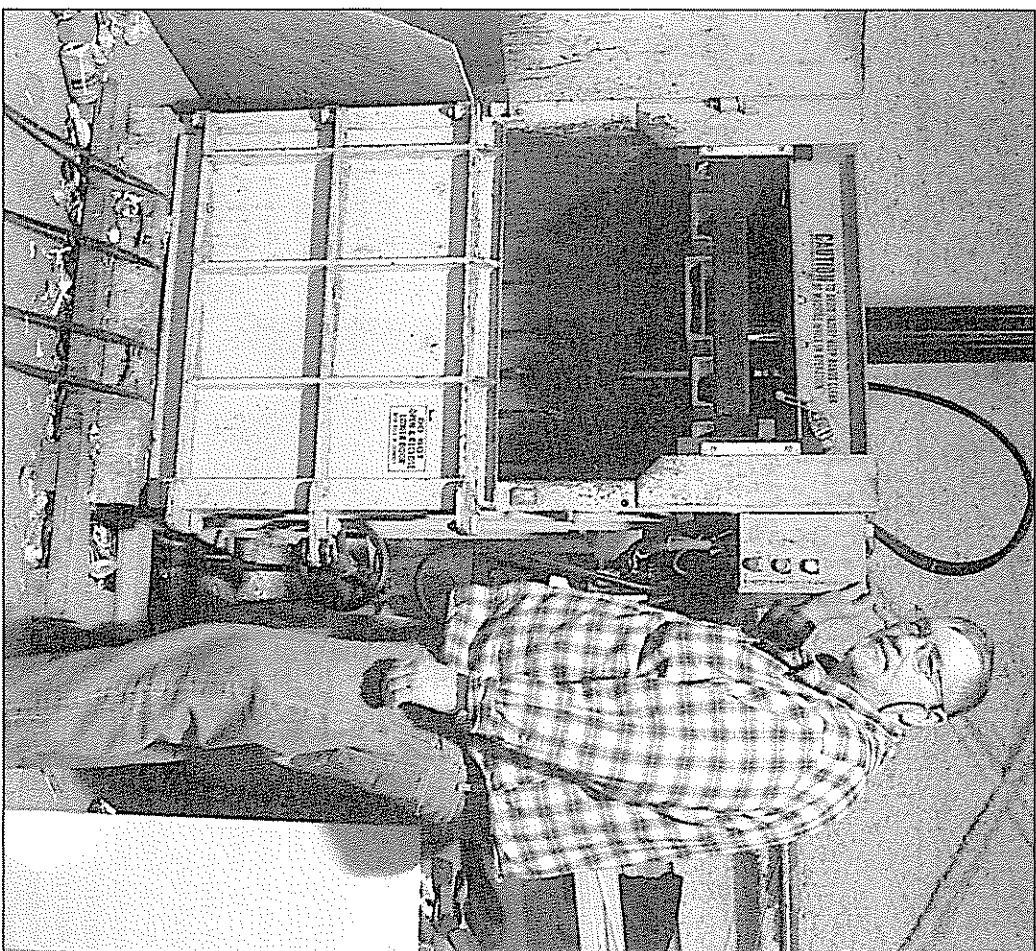
For those interested in recycling right here in Bethel, the recycling center is located just before the landfill, the big blue building on the right. We are open Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturday, 8:00am-4pm.

Since this is a one man operation, it would be advisable to call first to make sure I am around before you make the trip out and find no one to help you. The phone number is 543-7072. If you just want to drop off cans and plastics, there are two sets of old dumpsters out front labeled "Aluminum Cans" and "Plastic Bottles". You can deposit them in their respective places. On Saturdays I am usually here all day.

At present, we are taking paper (no magazines or cardboard at this time), both dense and clear plastic bottles, aluminum cans, copper, stainless steel, aluminum pieces, and alkaline batteries. It is preferred that you take lead acid batteries (car, truck, and boat batteries) directly to Napa. Here is someone else who needs to here a big thank you for taking care of all the lead acid batteries for the City for years. Thank you Napa.



Aluminum cans is one of the recyclable items accepted at the Bethel Recycling Center.



David Stovner with one of the Recycling Center's compactors.
photos by Greg Lincoln